

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Allowed claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the preamble. New claim 20 corresponds to allowed claim 14, but describes the structural parts as positioned on opposite sides of the cross-member. Claims 21-25 correspond to original claims 2-6. Claims 26-27 include elements of original claim 7. Claim 28 corresponds to original claim 13. Claims 29-32 depend from new claim 20 and correspond to claims 15-18. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 14-32.

Nineteen claims are pending, including three independent claims. No additional fees are due.

Typographical Error

The preamble of claim 14 described an “equipment from face for a motor vehicle.” This is clearly an error. The preamble has been amended to read, “equipment front face for a motor vehicle.”

Section 102(e) Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 13 as anticipated by US 6 634 702 to Pleschke. Claims 1-13 have been canceled. The rejection is now moot.

Double Patenting

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 12 as being substantial duplicates of claims 14 and 19. Claims 7 and 12 have been canceled. The objection is now moot.

New Claims

New claims include independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21-32. Like allowed claims 14-19, claim 20 describes a front face comprising three distinct parts,

including a first structural part, a second structural part and a body made of a plastics material interconnecting the structural parts. Claim 20 amends allowed claim 14 to describe “structural parts positioned on either side of two opposite sides of the cross-member body.” Applicants believe the new claims are allowable.

First, the Examiner appears to have rejected original claim 1 because it did not specify that the three parts of the cross-member are distinct, that is, the Examiner considers the plastic ribs of Pleschke to be both a structural part and a body. In contrast, allowed claims 14-19 and new claims 20-32 explicitly identify the three parts as distinct.

Second, the Examiner has allowed claim 14 where the structural parts are on the top and bottom of the body. The Examiner has also allowed claim 19 where the structural parts are toward the front and rear of the body. Claims 20-32 do not specify top or bottom or front or rear, but do require the structural parts to be “on either side of two opposite sides of the cross-member body.” This language parallels the respective elements of claims 14 and 19.

Compare figure 1 of Pleschke, which shows an upper transverse support 2 made by the assembly of a sheet metal part 6 and plastics material ribs 8 (col. 4, lines 61-64). According to the description of the process used to manufacture the upper transverse support 2 in col. 5, lines 21-33, the sheet metal part 6 and the ribs 8 are the only parts making up the support 2.

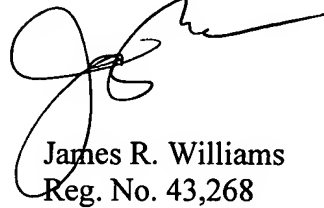
Pleschke does not describe an equipment front face having three separate parts and does not anticipate claim 20 or its dependent claims. Claims 20-32 are allowable.

Claims 14-19 have already been allowed. Applicants submit that new claims 20-32 are also allowable. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

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